

Backcountry Camping Trip Guide

One Night

National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior
Shenandoah National Park
Emergency: 1-800-732-0911



Riprap and Wildcat

Standard - Circuit

Level: Experienced or Strenuous Beginner

Total Length: 9.5 miles

Trip Description: Popular circuit with good views, cascades, excellent swimming hole

Entry: 90 MP - Riprap Trail Parking

Exit: 90 MP - Riprap Trail Parking

Map(s): PATC #11 South District

Day One

Campsite: Wildcat Ridge Trail - backcountry

3 to 5 miles

From Riprap Parking, hike north on the Appalachian Trail (AT) 0.4 mile.

Turn left and hike north on Riprap Trail (total distance on Riprap, 3.6 miles).

Camping with water is available on the mile or so before Wildcat Ridge Trail.

Turn left onto Wildcat Ridge Trail.

Camping is also possible on the first mile of Wildcat Ridge Trail.

Finally, when Wildcat Ridge Trail turns up the mountain, you can follow the stream for some areas to camp.

Day Two

4.5 to 6.5 miles

Finish hiking Riprap Trail if needed.

Turn left onto Wildcat Ridge Trail and hike 2.7 miles.

Turn left onto the AT and hike north to Riprap Parking (2.8 miles).

Notes

This is a popular route on weekends, when you may wish to use the wide Big Run valley instead, saving the relatively narrow Riprap and Wildcat for a weekday.

Options

If you have two vehicles, you may make this a 7-mile hike by parking your second vehicle at Wildcat Ridge Parking.